



PATENT

RECEIVED
JUN 13 2001
Technology Center 2600

RECEIVED
JUN 14 2001
Group 2100

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the references be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.

Each English language reference was cited in a corresponding foreign application search report or office action and its relevance discussed therein. A copy of the foreign search report or office action is attached for the Examiner's information.

09/513,845

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

MCDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY



David L. Stewart
Registration No. 37,578

600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096
(202) 756-8000 DLS:kap
Date: June 12, 2001
Facsimile: (202) 756-8087